

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 SEC-03 DEAE-00 SNM-02

JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SY-10 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 EUR-25 DRC-01 /126 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4946

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CPRS BF

SUBJ: EXTRADITION: ROBERT L. VESCO DENIES DRUG CHARGES

REF: STATE 231670

SUMMARY: ROBERT VESCO ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DENYING ANY CONNECTION WITH DRUG TRAFFIC. VESCO LINKED THE CHARGES WITH THE PRESENT EXTRADITION HEARING, CLAIMING THEY WERE ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION. HE CHALLENGED US ATTORNEY PAUL CURRAN TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OR APOLOGIZE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MR. VESCO'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS: BEGIN QUOTE:

FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED A RUMOUR ATTEMPTING TO LINK ME WITH FINANCIAL BACKING OF A SCHEME TO SMUGGLE A QUANTITY OF HEROIN. UP TO NOW I HAVE NOT PERSONALLY ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS. BUT THESE NEW ATTACKS ARE SO OUTRAGEOUS, AND SO DESPICABLY LOW, THAT I AM BREAKING MY SILENCE TO DENOUNCE THEM PERSONALLY FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR. THIS RUMOUR IS A FOUL AND SNEAKING LIE.

I EMPHATICALLY STATE THE FOLLOWING WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION OR UNCLASSIFIED

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RESERVATION; I HAVE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY

IN ANY WAY WITH TRADING IN HEROIN OR ANY OTHER NARCOTIC. NO PAST OR PRESENT BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF MINE - MR. NORMAN P. LEBLANC NOR ANYONE ELSE HAS EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN SUCH TRAFFIC IN ANY WAY. I HAVE NEVER MET OR EVEN HEARD OF ANYONE NAMED FRANK PEROFF; I HAVE NEVER MET OR EVEN HEARD OF ANYONE NAMED CONRAD BOUCHARD.

I DO NOT KNOW, NOR HAVE I EVER MET ANYONE WHO KNOWS OR HAS MET, THESE PERSONS. I HAVE NEVER BACKED NOR ARRANGED ANY FINANCIAL BACKING OR OTHER SUPPORT FOR ANY TRAFFIC IN HEROIN OR ANY OTHER NARCOTIC.

I AM APPALLED THAT OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE ATTEMPTING TO MALIGN MY REPUTATION BY ANONYMOUSLY LEAKING SUCH FAIRY TALES TO THE PRESS. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE DONE SO. LAST WEEK THEY FALSELY CLAIMED I WAS ABOUT TO FLEE TO ARGENTINA - A FALSE RUMOUR WHICH MY OFFICE REFUTED. NOW THEY HAVE TRIED TO DISTRACT THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION BY SMEARING ME WITH ONE OF THE FOULEST CRIMES KNOWN TO MAN. THE REASONS THEY ARE DOING SO ARE PLAIN. IT IS ONE MORE STEP IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO FORCE ME TO ASSIST THEM IN POLITICAL PROSECUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES; AND FURTHER, SUCH A VICIOUS AND OUTRAGEOUS LIE CONCERNING ME DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE JUDICIAL HEARING ON THE EXTRADITION IN THE BAHAMAS CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS A BALD ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AND INFLUENCE THE DECISION BY INFLAMING PUBLIC OPINION.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SERVED WITH ANY CRIMINAL WARRANT IN THE UNITED STATES. I DID NOT LEAVE THE UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY. I AM NOT A FUGITIVE. I HAVE RELIED ON THE DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW IN THE APPROPRIATE JURISDICTION AND HAVE ANSWERED IN COURT ANY CHARGE BROUGHT AGAINST ME IN ANY COUNTRY IN WHICH I RESIDE.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE BAHAMAS, I AM PRESENT WITH THE US PROSECUTORS IN THE COURTROOM EACH DAY. I HAVE NOT LEAKED ANY RUMOURS ABOUT THEM TO THE PRESS, ALTHOUGH OFFERED MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO. INSTEAD, I HAVE ABIDED BY THE COURT'S RULES AND FOLLOWED PROPER JUDICIAL PROCEDURE. PERHAPS THE US OFFICIALS WHO ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTEMPTING TO FORCE ME TO RETURN TO THE US ARE GETTING DESPERATE; FOR INSTEAD OF RELYING ON JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS, THEY ARE NOW ATTEMPTING, THROUGH FALSE RUMOURS, TO PLAY UNSCRUPULOUSLY ON THE EMOTIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE EVERYWHERE BY INNUENDOS THAT I AM INVOLVED WITH SUCH REPREHENSIBLE ACTIVITY.

I AM THE FATHER OF FOUR CHILDREN, TWO OF THEM TEENAGERS. NO ONE DEPLORES THE TRAFFIC IN HEROIN AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS

MORE THAN I DO. AND, NO ONE IN THE WORLD IS LESS INVOLVED IN SUCH TRAFFIC THAN I AM.

OVER THE PAST WEEK, IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS THAT THE LATEST US CHARGES OF ALLEGED FRAUD AGAINST ME ARE FALSE. AS THIS FACT BECOMES PUBLICLY EXPOSED, THE ATTACKS BY FALSE RUMOURS HAVE STEADILY ESCALATED; FIRST, ESCAPE TO ARGENTINA, FALSE. NOW, HEROIN - FALSE. I RECALLED THE OTHER DAY THAT I WAS IN THE TEXAS AREA DURING NOVEMBER 1963. LET ME HEAD OFF THE NEXT RUMOUR BY ASSURING EVERYONE THAT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE US DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, GEORGE BROSAN, IS NOW QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "HE WAS HAZARDING THE GUESS THAT REALLY MR. BOUCHARD WAS JUST LYING TO MR. PEROFF ABOUT MR. VESCO'S INVOLVEMENT AS FINANCIAL BACKER OF THE HEROIN SMUGGLING SCHEME." THIS STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE. I CHALLENGE MR. PAUL CURRAN AND ANY STAFF INVESTIGATORS WHO CAUSED THIS NEWSPAPER RUMOUR TO EITHER PRODUCE EVIDENCE FOR ALL THE PUBLIC TO SEE AND FOR ME TO REFUTE, OR TO APOLOGISE PUBLICLY RIGHT NOW. I ASK THEM TO ACT LIKE LAWYERS AND NOT CHARACTER ASSASSINS. END QUOTE. SPIERS

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